

Book Review...

A Christian's Pocket guide to Buddhism

by Alex G Smith, OMF Christian Focus, isbn 978-1-84550-526-4,
available from OMF, www.omf.org.uk

Alex spent 20 years working amongst Buddhists in Thailand and since then has ministered and taught courses on Buddhism, Christianity and World Religions at Asian and Western Seminaries.

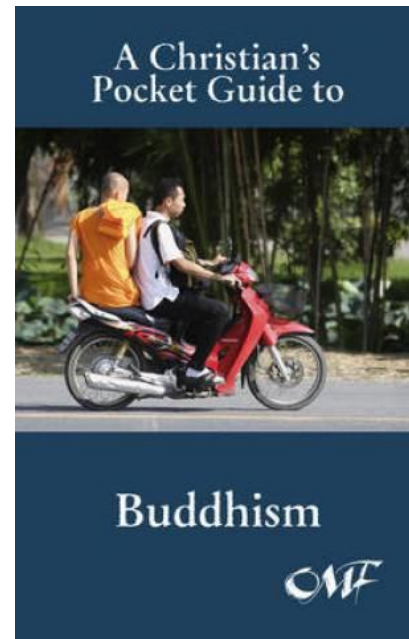
His book gives a very clear statement of Buddhist beliefs, an analysis of how and where this religion is catching on and quietly growing in the west and also some ideas about how to share our faith with Buddhists.

He writes:

“Fundamental Buddhism relegates women to an inferior position. In Theravada Buddhism, until a woman is reborn as a man she has no hope of attaining nirvana, but doctrines like this are rarely taught in the West.

“This low-key approach has influenced many Westerners. Numerous Hollywood films have promoted Buddhist tenets and philosophies. Some popular actors, television stars and even several prominent politicians openly identify themselves with Buddhism and well-known business people and economic firms have taken on ‘Boardroom Buddhism’ to manage stress.”

This is a very readable and useful book to which any new worker amongst Buddhists might well wish to refer time and again.



*Mrs Ann Bower
Co-ordinator Mission in the UK forums
Global Connections*